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Security Information

31 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, SA DIVISION
SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Activities of SA/PC-1

1. The outstanding developments in agent operations during the month of July were the exfiltration of the Pine and Willow teams. The Pine Team spent the winter in the Kossovar region of Yugoslavia, and its debriefing yielded a great deal of valuable information both on conditions in Northern Albania and on Yugoslav activity with respect to Albania. The Willow Team spent only 3½ weeks in Albania but brought out with them a friend who should be able to furnish information on the Korcha area.

2. The problem of disposing of the M/V Juanita continues to be with us. Although a preliminary contract was signed in June for the sale of this vessel, repairs to the engine which necessitate the sending of parts from the United States have delayed completion of the trial run called for in the agreement. It is hoped that no further complications will arise and that this ill-fated vessel will be finally disposed of during August.

3. Although it was decided jointly by SIS and OFC that the HCOA should be reorganized and broadened, in two stages, discussions held with the various Albanian political leaders in July have revealed that the Balli Kombitar leaders will probably refuse to accept a majority vote on the subject of broadening. Since it appears increasingly likely that efforts to push the broadening aspect of the committee's reorganization may well result in a BE walkout, our representative in Rome has been instructed to delay this phase until the merit of the case can be reassessed. The reorganizational phase, however, is scheduled to begin early in August, when the full membership of the Executive Committee is expected to be in Rome.

4. The negotiations between King Zog and Tito appear to have fallen through for the time being and indications are that Zog will use another more secure emissary than Latfi Satfet Tozan, who has been acting for him, to make any future approach to Tito.

5. Reports of Yugoslav activity with respect to Albania continue to be received, but it is not yet possible to draw any firm conclusions on short-range Yugoslav intentions.

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Attachment: 2 (Project Reports)

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MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT

FOR MONTH OF

JULY 1951

1. CRYPTONYM BOFIND	2. DIVISION OR BRANCH SR/PC-1 <i>SE-1</i>	3. COUNTRY(S) ALBANIA	4. ESTIMATED COMPLETION	
			PERCENT	DATE
5. PLAN				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARAMILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT	
6. FINANCIAL MECHANISM				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSIDY	<input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY	<input type="checkbox"/> PURCHASE OF SERVICES	
7. PHASE				
<input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING	<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINATED	
8. FUNDING				
FY ALLOTMENTS TOTAL TO DATE	OBLIGATIONS CURRENT MONTH	FY OBLIGATIONS CUMUL. TO DATE	UNOBLIGATED BALANCE	
	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>		
9. NAME OF CASE OFFICER <i>C</i>	ROOM NO. <i>3 1315</i>	EXTENSION <i>671</i>	SIGNATURE	

10. FACTS, EVALUATION AND COMMENT: (Use additional plain sheet if necessary)

A. Mission

See Sections II and III, Part II of the "Country Plan for Albania" for a discussion of the cold war missions and tasks.

B. Accomplishments**(1) Paramilitary**

a. Apple Team. On the night of 6-7 July a supply drop was made to the Apple Team, which is operating northeast of Tirana. The drop consisted of nine containers, including a radio. Unfortunately, due to an error in navigation, the team did not receive these supplies. Leaflets and copies of the miniature newspaper were dropped along the route as a deception measure. W/T contact is being maintained with this team, and to date all reports are favorable. A summary of the debriefing of the three members of the Apple Team who infiltrated on 15 June is included under the Intelligence Section of this report.

b. Pine Team. The 4-man Pine Team, which operated in the Korce region in Northern Albania during the summer and fall of 1951 and then moved to the Koscovar region in Yugoslavia for the winter, infiltrated via Yugoslavia, arriving in Greece on 27 June. A summary of the detailed debriefing of this team is included under the Intelligence Section of this report.

c. Willow Team. The three-man Willow Team, which was infiltrated on 14 June to establish an intelligence network in the Korce area to provide material for clandestine radio broadcasts, infiltrated on 9 July. The Willow Team brought out with them a friend who will be used as a guide for future missions.

d. Red Team. No word was received during June from the Red Team, which is believed to be operating in Northern Albania.

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e. Cedar Team. The Cedar Team arrived in Greece from Germany on 30 June. This team, which will operate in the Gjinokaster area, was moved to the frontier on 22 July but was forced back during the infiltration several days later due to the lack of physical stamina of one of the team members. A replacement will be sent to join the team as soon as possible so that the mission may be staged during the coming month.

f. We were advised by the British representative in Athens that VALUABLE safely infiltrated two teams by sea on the nights of 20-21 July. The SATISFACTION TEAM will operate in the Scutari area and eastward and the SANBO TEAM in the Berat area. The British now have three teams operating in Albania and plan to infiltrate a fourth before the summer is over.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Teams	0	1	11
Infiltrates	0	4	49
Exfiltrates	7	3	23
Active (Presently in Yugoslavia)	0	0	0
Active (Presently in Albania)	8	15	6
Defected to Yugoslavia	0	0	2
Captured	0	0	4
Killed	0	0	9
Status Unknown	0	0	3

(Detailed reports from the field on recent operations have enabled us to check all of our records. Some figures have been revised but those given above are now believed to reflect a true picture of the status of our agent operations.)

g. A W/T message received from the Apple Team indicates that due to an error in navigation, the Team did not receive any of the supplies dropped for them on the night of 6-7 July. This supply drop consisted of nine containers, including a radio. The air crew that flew this mission are reported to be now on leave but they will be questioned on the details of their error upon their return.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Supply Missions	1	0	17
Supply Missions Successful (see above)	1	0	6
Total Weight	Unreported	0	4 tons plus

(2) Political

a. On 14 July, Selim Damani and Zef Pali, members of the NCPA, departed from Rome for Athens to investigate the knife fights which took place in the Lavrion Camp over the 24-25 May week end, and to attempt to establish some degree of harmony between members of the Balli Kombetar and the Legalitet Parties who were involved.

Abas Kupa returned to Rome on 13 July after a visit of several weeks in Egypt, where he conferred with King Zog on matters of mutual interest, among them the proposed broadening of the NCPA.

Hasan Dosti, Chairman of the NCPA, and Nuci Kotta, member of the Executive Committee of the NCPA, departed from New York on 23 July to attend the Lawyers' Congress in Berlin from 25 July to 1 August. They were joined there by Selim Damani, member of the General Committee, who proceeded directly to Berlin from Athens. Messrs. Dosti and Kotta will visit the Guard Company at Munich upon the conclusion of the Lawyers' Congress and then proceed to Rome, where they will take part in discussions on the reorganization and broadening of NCPA.

b. Psychological Warfare - The NCPA covert transmitter located near Athens continued its broadcast schedule during July. Minor changes were made in the content of the programs which it is felt will add to their naturalness and plausibility. The three members of the Apple Team who exfiltrated to Greece stated that they were prevented from listening to the broadcasts by bad weather and operational hazards.

c. Publications

(1) The NCPA semi-monthly newspaper, Shqiperia, was printed in Rome on schedule and distributed.

(2) 50,000 copies of the 13th issue of the miniature edition of Shqiperia were printed in New York and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania. An additional 500,000 copies of the miniature newspaper are being printed in Washington for use by the British in air drops.

(3) Copies of the NCFA News Bulletin, which is printed irregularly in Rome in English, French and Italian, were sent to members of the U. S. Congress to acquaint them with activities of the NCFA. Although a copy has not been received, it is assumed that the 10th issue of the News Bulletin was printed in July. Publication during June was suspended awaiting issuance by Italian authorities of a license to operate.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Shqipëria (issues)	2	2	45
Miniature Shqipëria (issues)	1	1	13
News Bulletin	1	1	10

d. No propaganda supply drops were made over Albania during July in view of the ban imposed on such operations as a result of the Soviet-B/W campaign. We have requested that this ban be lifted in time to permit the British to carry out a scheduled propaganda supply drop in mid-August.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Prop/Supply cans	0	0	3100
Flour Bags	0	0	1000

e. On 28 July a successful leaflet drop was made. During this mission 500,000 radio announcement leaflets, 25,000 government of thieves leaflets, 22,000 today and tomorrow leaflets, and 150,000 copies of the miniature Shqipëria were dropped. The mission reported light flak over the Valona area. In addition, as cover for the resupply mission to the Apple Team on 6-7 July, 54,000 miniature newspapers and 500,000 symbol leaflets were dropped.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Leaflet	1,047,000	500,000	5,405,000

f. As a part of our mail campaign, several letters of a fictitious Communist group were taken into Albania by members of the Apple Team. No report on whether they have been mailed has been received.

g. Political Developments - All recent reports on the progress of negotiations between King Zog and Tito indicate that the discussions, which were scheduled to take place in Turkey in June, have been indefinitely postponed. Irfan Bey Chrida, one of Zog's representatives, returned to Egypt on 12 July on instructions from the King. Zog has indicated that Lutfi Saffet Tozan, his previous emissary to Tito, is no

longer considered a secure contact and that another means of conducting negotiations with Tito will be found.

Meetings to discuss the reorganization of the NCPA were held in Rome during July but no definite agreement was reached. Reconsideration has been given to the broadening phase, which is to follow the reorganization, and instructions have been sent to our Rome representative to delay action until we can be sure of more active support from the British and until the dangers of any party withdrawing from the Committee can be more accurately assessed.

h. Intelligence

According to the contacts of the Apple Team ninety out of one hundred people in Albania are ready to act if a serious attempt is made to overthrow the Hoxha regime. The police are no longer to be trusted and even the Communists are said to be ready to work with any organization which plans the overthrow of the Government. The people are confused by the fact that teams enter the country representing different groups. They feel that unless these groups are united, more harm than good is done by the teams' entry since the Government makes effective propaganda by its claims that the NCPA intends to turn North Epirus over to the Greeks, Italian-sponsored activities are directed toward bringing the country under Italian control again, and the Yugoslav Committee plans to give the Kosovo region of northern Albania to Yugoslavia. There are small resistance groups in every village and town, all active in some degree. These resistance groups operate independently and have no contacts outside the country, but all team contacts and a number of their friends, including a member of the Sigurimi, expressed a desire to work with resistance forces outside the country. Emergency rations enabled the team members to exist in spite of the extremely grave food situation. The need for Albanian currency for future agents is acute. The documentation carried by the team withstood the test of examination by authorities by whom they were stopped and by friends contacted. Although the team reported that the population was pleased with the idea of the propaganda supply drops, they felt that only Party members gained from them, as no one was allowed to keep any of the packages.

Team

The debriefing of the Pine confirmed the statements of the Apple Team in a number of instances. They reported that the only document required in Albania is the Leter Njofte, that the lek is the only money in circulation although in some places it is possible to change gold pounds or American dollars. They stated that there are small resistance groups in some places but these are inactive. One such group asked for material aid. Twenty people in the Luma area who assisted Pine Team were arrested and jailed but no action has been taken against their families. Pine reported, as did Apple, that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the police is loyal to Hoxha. Pine stated that the NCPA is highly thought of by all of the population and that the leaflets dropped are passed from hand to hand and are well regarded. Thorous cartoons have the greatest appeal. Pine heard of the SCDEGOOD

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drops only over the Tirana radio. Public feeling toward Anglo-American aid for liberation is said to be strong. The population distrusts the Yugoslavs and feels that any government established with Yugoslav help would be like the present regime. Greek territorial aims are feared. With respect to the U.S.S.R., public opinion is that Russia sends broken-down machinery to Albania and takes all of Albania's food in return. Pine Team did not see any Russian technicians or military advisers nor any evidence of Germans. Information from Albanians and from contacts in Yugoslavia, however, indicates that Bulgarian technicians and military advisers are present in Albania. Pine heard that some Albanians do go to Russia to study but did not meet anyone who had studied there. Pine Team heard the clandestine radio broadcasts many times while in Albania and picked up the noon broadcast while in Yugoslavia. The Albanians in Yugoslavia are reported to think highly of the radio broadcasts. Pine reported that there are no signs of mobilization but that fortifications are being built by the Albanians on the Yugoslav and Greek borders in several places. It has been rumored recently that a great deal of night work has been done along the Yugoslav border. Outgoing mail is heavily censored, as is internal mail. Letters from Satellite countries and Italy are permitted once a week. Telephones are under government control. While Pine Team was operating in Northern Albania they were contacted by the leader of a Yugoslav team and informed that the Yugoslav authorities desired to get in touch with them. They agreed to a meeting and proceeded, in company with the Yugoslav-sponsored group to Krushe. They were later quartered in Priaren, where they remained throughout the winter with the sanction of Yugoslav authorities. Pine Team states they furnished no information to the Yugoslavs.

Radio Belgrade continues to broadcast the desirability of revolt in Albania. These programs are usually broadcast to the home audience, though occasional programs are beamed to Albania. There is another phase of the stepped-up Yugoslav campaign against Albania.

- (3) Economic
- Negative
- (4) Support

a. Training- The three uninhabited islands in Livadostra Bay of the Gulf of Corinth, which were being considered for use as a training site, were found to be unsuitable. However, an option has been secured on a group of islands in Alkionidhas Bay in the Gulf of Corinth which are considered highly suitable for our needs. A monthly rental of \$200 has been agreed upon and the Athens Station is forwarding a project outline to cover the establishment of this training base.

Training of three W/T operators continued in Germany.

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b. Clearances

Clearances Requested

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Clearances Granted

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c. Recruitment—The Albanian speaker who is being considered to assist with interrogation and translation work in Greece was examined and assessed on 22-23 July.

d. Administration—() FIEND () Officer in London, spent a week in Washington on consultation, returning to London on 12 July.

() FIEND Training Officer, arrived in Washington on 15 July from Germany. After home leave and a period of training in the U. S. () will report to Athens to take charge of the training program there.

() returned on 18 July from TNY in Rome, where he assisted the FIEND representative and took part in discussions on reorganizing the ROFA.

() Branch Chief, departed on 20 July for three months TNY in Athens. He will participate in the FIEND field meeting and act as Project Field Chief during ()'s forthcoming home leave.

() Acting Branch Chief, assumed his duties on 21 July.

() Rome FIEND representatives; () London () Officer; and () Balkan Representative at the Frankfurt Station, all proceeded to Athens to attend the FIEND Field Meeting which was held there from 23-25 July.

Capt. John Ellis, permanent replacement as Commander of the Albanian Guard Company, reported for duty on 1 July and is now in Washington awaiting final clearance. He is expected to depart about 15 August for Germany.

c. Reactions

Athens reports that a refugee interrogated stated that reading a copy of Shqipëria dropped in Albania was "like getting a breath of fresh air."

As stated in the summary of the Apple debriefing, the Albanian people are reported to be in favor of the BGE/GOOD drops in spite of

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attempts on the part of the authorities to confiscate all packages found.

D. Conclusions

- (1) Favorable conditions of which advantage was taken:

Negative.

- (2) Problems Encountered:

Negative

- (3) Deficiencies noted and corrective action taken:

Negative

- (4) Lessons learned:

From the debriefing of the Apple Team it is apparent that the development and use of concentrated rations in agent operations is of great importance.

From the experience of the Apple Team it is evident that the documents prepared for them are sufficiently authentic in appearance to pass inspection, and future agents can therefore be documented with less fear of being betrayed by false documents should they be stopped by the authorities.

- (5) Course or courses of action to be taken:

It is planned to continue to develop the project in accordance with appropriate policy directives, keeping in close touch with any new developments with respect to our operations which could result from discussions between representatives of Zog and Tito, or other moves on the part of the Yugoslavs.

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FOR MONTH OF
JULY 1952

1. CRYPTONYM BGSPEED		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH SE/PC-1		3. COUNTRY(S) ALBANIA		4. ESTIMATED COMPLETION PERCENT DATE	
5. PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC <input type="checkbox"/> PARAMILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT							
6. FINANCIAL MECHANISM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSIDY <input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY <input type="checkbox"/> PURCHASE OF SERVICES							
7. PHASE <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING <input type="checkbox"/> TERMINATED							
8. FUNDING							
FY ALLOTMENTS TOTAL TO DATE		OBLIGATIONS CURRENT MONTH		FY OBLIGATIONS CUMUL. TO DATE		UNOBLIGATED BALANCE	
9. NAME OF CASE OFFICER C		ROOM NO. 1315J		EXTENSION 671		SIGNATURE	
10. FACTS, EVALUATION AND COMMENT: (Use additional plain sheet if necessary)							

A. Mission

See Section III, sub-para. B1, Part II of the Albanian Country Plan for the priority cold war task of conducting active PW in Albania, for which this sub-project was originally designed.

B. Accomplishments

The () station requested that certain minor engine parts be forwarded immediately to make necessary repairs on the engine. Upon the receipt of these parts, which were shipped on 26 July, M/V Juanita will undergo the trial run called for by the agreement with the Worldwide Steamship Company. It is hoped that upon the conclusion of this test the final contract will be signed and the M/V Juanita turned over to the purchaser.

C. Conclusions

Upon completion of the trail run and conclusion of the sale of the M/V Juanita, the project will be formally terminated.

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